

Message Text

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44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 CU-02 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 SCCT-01

/075 W

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R 301151Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6708

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12706

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,TH,US

SUBJECT: PLANNED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION FOR JULY 4--
SITREP 4

REF: A. STATE 152784; B. BANGKOK 12590

SUMMARY. THE NEWLY ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT THE NSCT WOULD NOT SPONSOR A DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY JULY 4. OPPOSITION FROM THE NATION'S POLITICAL LEADERS TO THE PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION CONTINUES. RIGHT-WING GROUPS ARE SURFACING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COUNTER THE ACTIVISTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN THE MIDST OF ITS PROGRAM TO HOLD AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION, THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) STOPPED TO HOLD ELECTIONS JUNE 28 (BANGKOK 12683). KRIANGKAMON LAOHAPHAIROT, 23, A FOURTH-YEAR LAW STUDENT AT CHULALONGKON UNIVERSITY, RECEIVED THE NOD. KRIANGKAMON TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) IN BANGKOK JUNE 30 THAT THE NSCT WOULD NOT HOLD A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EMBASSY AND UP-COUNTRY BASES ON JULY 4. HE INDICATED THAT THE NSCT COULD CONFINE ITSELF TO SEMINARS AND SPEECHES AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY RALLIES BEGINNING JULY 1. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 28 THAT SPEECHES WERE THE MORE LIKELY SCENAPGQ KRIANGKAMON'S POLITICAL PERSUASIONS REMAIN TO BE TESTED, THE CHANGE OF OFFICERS AT THIS TIME WAS PROBABLY AN ATTEMPT TO RECOUP SOME OF THE PUBLIC SUPPORT LOST OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.

2. IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR PEKING, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS STAND THAT THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS WERE FREE TO HOLD THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS AS LONG AS THEY KEPT THEM PEACEFUL AND LAW ABIDING. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT HE SAW LITTLE NEED FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS SINCE THE USG WAS ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF WITHDRAWING ITS MILITARY FORCES. KHUKRIT ALSO ARGUED THAT THAILAND NEEDS TO KEEP FRIENDS RATHER THAN CREATE ENEMIES (FBIS BK271641Y JUNE 75).

3. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PEOPLE'S MORALITY PROTECTION GROUP (PMPG) SPOKE WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER JUNE 30 ABOUT THE GROUP'S PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY JULY 3 IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. WE BELIEVE WE SUCCEEDED IN DISSUADING HIM FROM HOLDING IT. THE UDORN CONSUL REPORTS THAT TWO SEPARATE RIGHT-WING GROUPS HAVE ALSO POSTED LEAFLETS AROUND KHORAT AND UBON CITIES SAYING THAT THEY WILL STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN OPPOSITION TO THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS.

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4. UDORN TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATION. A PRELIMINARY MEETING BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE STUDENTS INDICATED LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THE STUDENT'S CAUSE, HOWEVER, AND RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT, IF THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS PERSIST.

5. THE CHIANG MAI CONSUL REPORTS THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE KHO KHA AIR STATION MET JUNE 30 WITH THE GOVERNOR OF LAMPANG TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AFTER THE PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEF REQUESTED AMERICAN PERSONNEL REMAIN ON THE BASE JULY 4.

6. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHUMPHON LOHACHALA, TOLD THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER JUNE 30 THAT THE ACTIVISTS HAD NOT RECEIVED THE PUBLIC SUPPORT THEY ANTICIPATED. HE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE WHATEVER SITUATION AROSE. THE CHIANG MAI CONSUL REPORTS THAT CHUMPHON WAS RECENTLY IN THE NORTH DISCUSSING PLANS WITH LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS FOR PROTECTING AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS ON JULY 4.

7. A PLACE SOURCE TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JUNE 30 THAT THE NSCT WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE US NO TROUBLE JULY 4. THE STUDENTS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE THEME OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND THE SOVIET UNION COULD EXPECT TO TAKE ITS LUMPS TOO. MAVERICK GROUPS, HOWEVER, PROMISED A FEW SURPRISES FOR AMERICANS AND RUSSIANS ALIKE. HE, FOR ONE, INTENDED TO SKIP THE VIN D'HONNEUR, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

8. COMMENT. PALACES RARELY NURTURE BRAVERY.

9. NO POLITICAL PARTY, WHETHER GOVERNMENT OR OPPOSITION, HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS. OPPOSITION DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOT'S PRESS CONFERENCES HAVE THE SAME TENOR AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENTIAL

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(FBIS BK 271159Y JUNE 75). NEWSPAPERS, BOTH THAI AND ENGLISH, ALSO DO NOT FAVOR THE ACTIVISTS. ONLY PRACHATHIPATAI OFFERS ANY ENCOURAGEMENT.

10. THE ACTIVISTS ARE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED. THEIR PLANS HAVE RAISED OPPOSITION FROM THE RIGHT. THE LIKELIHOOD IS A REDUCTION OF GOALS TO A RALLY FAR FROM THE EMBASSY'S GATES. THE NEW NSCT SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPARENT CANCELLATION OF THE DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY MAY BE A RECOGNITION OF THE ACTIVISTS' PRESENT WEAKENED POSITION.
WHITEHOUSE

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